

Appln No. 09/693,565

Amdt date March 29, 2004

Reply to Office action of January 27, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cash control system for a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the cash control system comprising:

a safe assembly including a safe for securing cash and a currency reader coupled to the safe for determining the amount of cash received in the safe;

a central control unit which receives deposit information from the safe assembly and generates and transmits deposit reports, and updates and transmits a pair of identifiers that distinguish deposit information accumulated during an accounting period before a predetermined event and deposit information accumulated during the accounting period after the predetermined event, wherein whether the deposit information was accumulated during the accounting period before the predetermined event or during the accounting period after the predetermined event is indicated by whether the identifiers are different from one another or identical to each other; and

a cash information server configured to receive the deposit information and identifiers from the central control unit and to identify the amount of cash collected by the business establishment during the accounting period.

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2. (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising a printer with a bar code generator coupled to the central control unit.

3. (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising a MICR line reader coupled to the central control unit to read MICR line information, the central control unit configured to transmit the MICR line information to the cash information server.

4. (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising at least one additional safe assembly including a safe for securing cash and a currency reader coupled to the safe for determining the amount of cash received in the safe and wherein the central control unit is configured to receive deposit information from the additional safe assembly and transmit deposit reports to the cash information server containing deposit information received from the additional safe assembly.

5. (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 wherein the safe is associated with a unique number which is included in the deposit reports transmitted by the central control unit.

6. (Original) The cash control system of claim 5 wherein the central control unit is configured to identify when the safe is opened and the cash stored in the safe is removed.

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7. (Currently Amended) The cash control system of claim 6 wherein the identifiers are a sequence number and an alternate sequence number, wherein the central control unit is configured to adjust at least one of the sequence number and the alternate sequence number based on cash being removed from the safe.

8. (Original) The cash control system of claim 7 wherein the accounting period is a business day as identified by a store manager.

9. (Original) The cash control system of claim 8, wherein the predetermined event is the opening of the safe and the cash stored in the safe removed and wherein the central control unit is configured to change one of the sequence number and the alternate sequence number at the time cash is removed from the safe and to change the other of the sequence number and the alternate sequence number at the end of the business day.

10. (Original) The cash control system of claim 9 wherein the central control unit is configured to transmit a first deposit report that identifies deposit information for the business day up to the time of removal of cash from the safe and wherein the sequence number and alternate sequence number are different on the first deposit report and wherein the central control unit is configured to transmit a second deposit report that identifies deposit information for the business day starting from removal of cash from the safe and wherein the sequence number and the alternate sequence number are the same on the second deposit report.

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11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A cash control system for a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the cash control system comprising:

a safe assembly for collecting cash, and for determining deposit information based on the cash collected at the business establishment;

a central control unit ~~[for receiving]~~ which receives the deposit information from the safe assembly, ~~[for updating]~~ updates a sequence number and an alternate sequence number, and ~~[for transmitting]~~ transmits the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number, wherein the alternate sequence number is updated upon an occurrence of an armored car pickup; and

a cash information server ~~[for receiving]~~ which receives the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number from the central control unit, and ~~[for identifying]~~ identifies the amount of cash collected at the business establishment before and after the armored car pickup using the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number.

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18. (Previously Presented) The cash control system of claim 17, wherein the central control unit updates the sequence number at an end of a business day on which the armored car pickup occurred to match the alternate sequence number.

19. (Previously Presented) The cash control system of claim 18, wherein the alternate sequence number is incremented upon the occurrence of the armored car pickup, and the sequence number is incremented at the end of the business day on which the armored car pickup occurred to match the incremented alternate sequence number.

20. (Previously Presented) The cash control system of claim 17, wherein the system generates a print-out that includes the deposit information, a store number, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number after the occurrence of the armored car pickup.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).